

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing multiple incoming jobs in a reporting system, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning each incoming job a respective priority; and

5 servicing each of the incoming jobs based on the priority assigned to each job and on a servicing scheme.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning each incoming job a priority is based on at least one attribute of the job.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the attribute of the job is at least one of an
10 assigned value of the job, an estimated cost of the job, a project to which the job belongs, a requestor of the job, and a group to which the requestor of the job belongs.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the job is one of a report or a request.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the servicing scheme effects processing of the jobs based solely on the priority of each respective job.

15 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the servicing scheme effects processing of the jobs based the priority of each respective job and on a servicing formula.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the servicing formula is a fair share formula, the fair share formula effecting servicing of a job, which has been submitted by a requestor, based on the number of jobs the requester has submitted.

20 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the servicing formula is a first in - first out formula.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the servicing formula is overridden by an administrator.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the servicing formula is altered on a scheduled basis.

5 11. The method of claim 1, wherein servicing each of the incoming jobs based on the priority assigned to the job and on a servicing scheme includes scheduling the job for servicing at a later time.

12. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:
placing each incoming job into a selected queue, selected from a plurality of
10 possible queues, based on the priority assigned to each incoming job; and
the step of servicing each of the incoming jobs is performed based on the selected queue into which the job is placed.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein assigning the priority to the job is based on a priority function, the priority function determining a priority value based on a set of
15 priority variables, the priority variables associated with the job.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the selected queue includes a plurality of sub-queues, and assigning a priority includes assigning a queue priority and a sub-queue priority; and
the step of placing each incoming job into a selected queue includes placing each
20 incoming job into a selected queue based on the queue priority and into a selected sub-queue, within such queue, based on the sub-queue priority.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the servicing scheme assigns threads to queues.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the priority scheme is altered on a schedule basis.

5 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the priority scheme is overridden by an administrator.

18. The method of claim 15, further including the step of moving the threads from one queue to a second queue based on the servicing scheme.

10 19. A system for processing multiple incoming jobs in a reporting system, the system comprising:

a priority setting portion that assigns a priority to each incoming job;
a service portion that processes each incoming job based on the priority assigned to each job and on a servicing scheme.

15 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the priority setting portion assigns a priority to each incoming job based on at least one attribute of the job.

21. The system of claim 19, further including a queue placement portion that places each incoming job into a selected queue, selected from a plurality of possible queues, based on the priority assigned to each incoming job; and the service portion processes each incoming job based on the queue into which the job is placed.

22. A processor-readable medium comprising code for execution by a processor to prioritize and service jobs, that comprise one or more reports to be processed in a reporting system, the medium comprising:

code for assigning a priority to each incoming job; and

5 code for processing each incoming job based on the priority assigned to each job and a servicing scheme.

23. The medium of claim 22, wherein the code for assigning a priority to each incoming job uses at least one attribute of each incoming job.

24. The medium of claim 22, wherein the code for assigning a priority to each
10 incoming job effects placement of each incoming job into a selected queue, which is selected from a plurality of queues, and the code for processing each incoming job processes each incoming job based on the selected queue into which the job is placed.